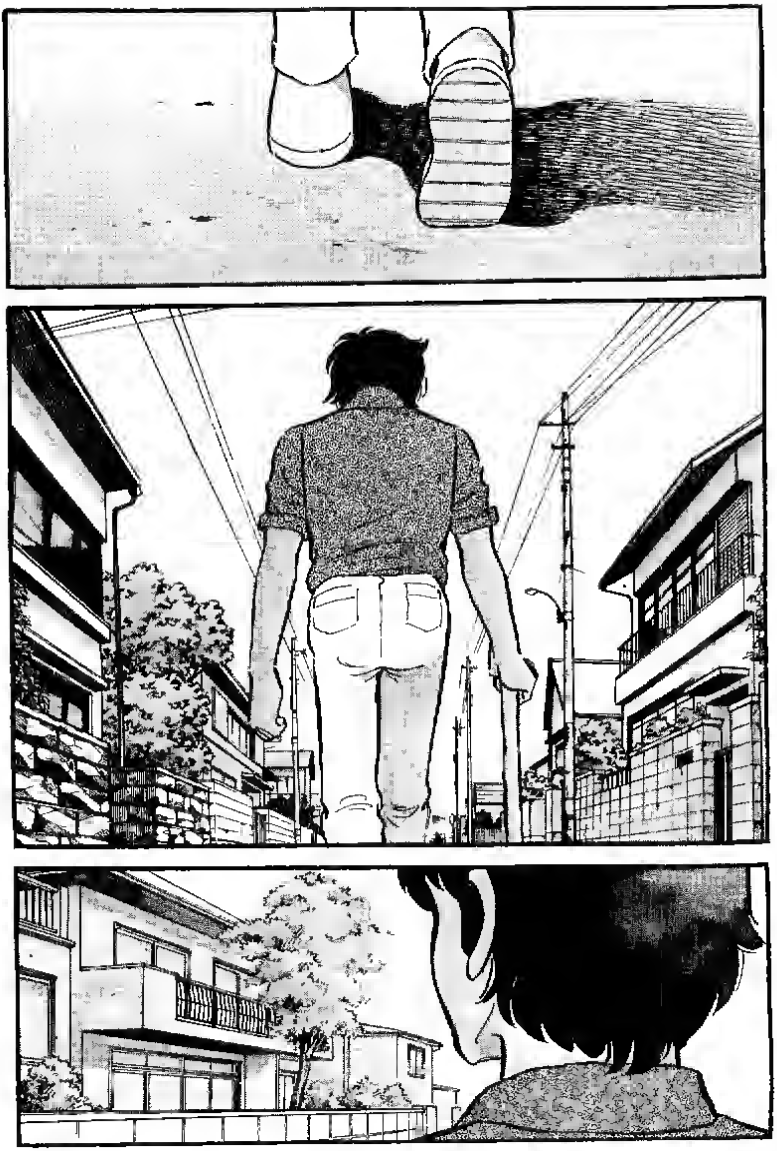
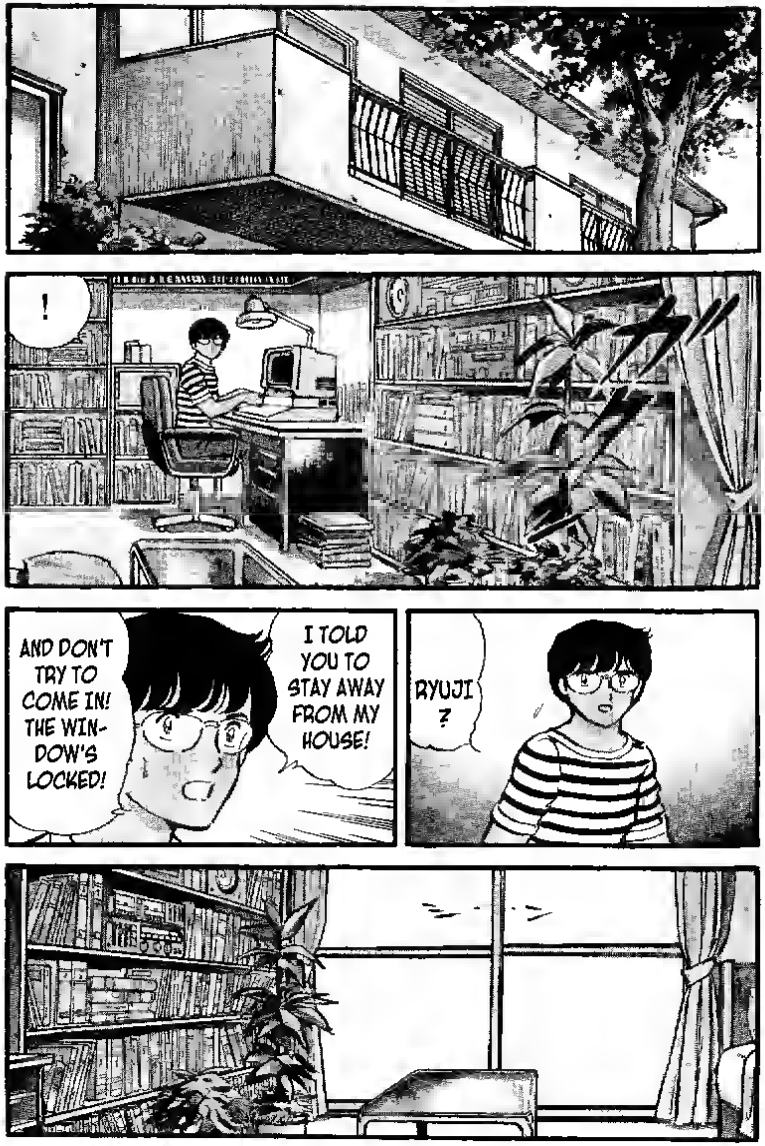
CHAPTER 3:
THE CALL




!
I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM MY HOUSE!
AND DON'T TRY TO COME IN! THE WINDOW'S LOCKED!
RYUJI ?

HUFF HUFF
RYUJI!
WAIT! ...MY SHOES...
OKAY, FINE, COME ON IN...
HEHE... SORRY! ...I'LL BE GONE SOON!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE WITH THOSE INJURIES...?

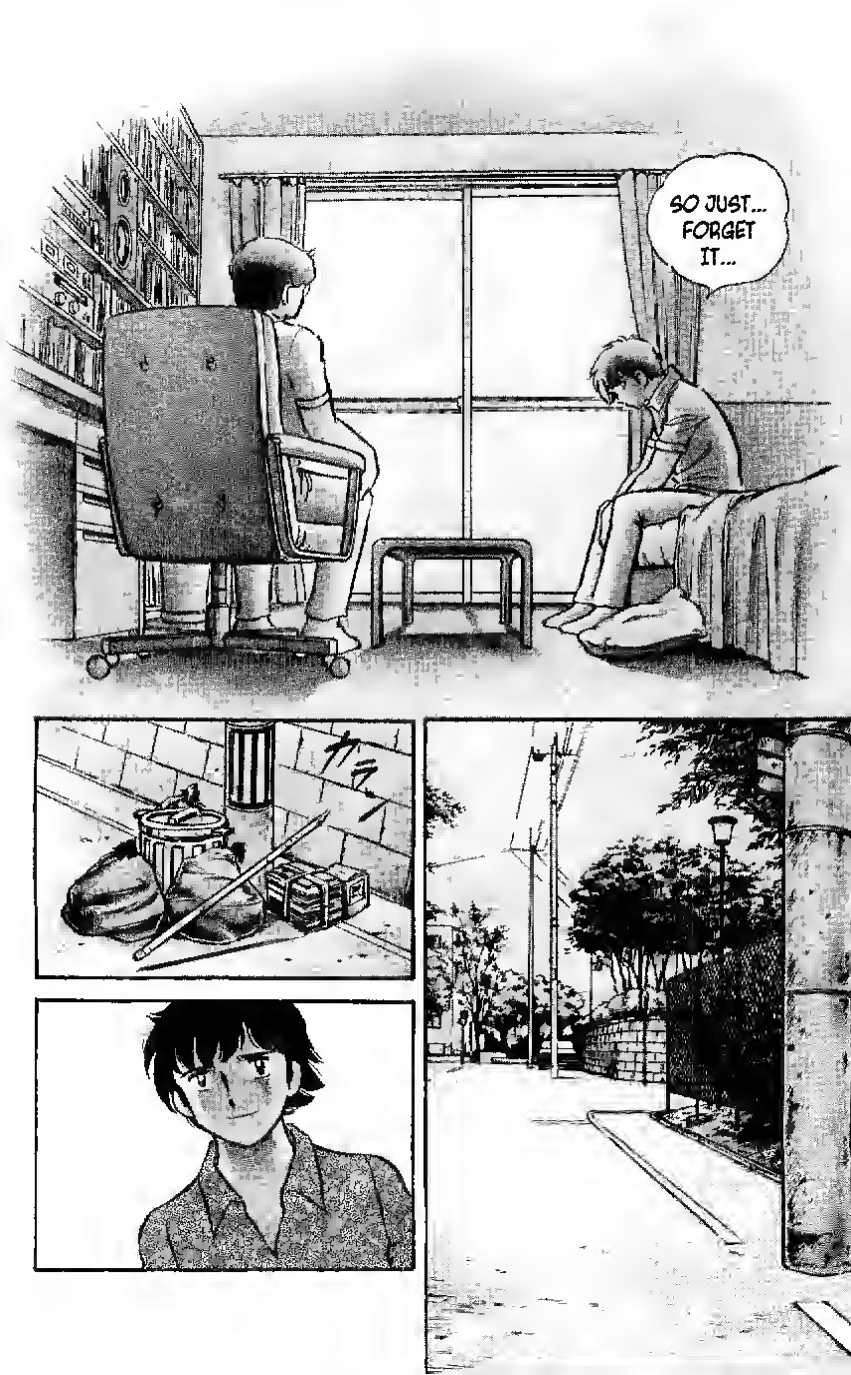
...THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU WERE PUSHED INTO A POOL, SURFACED IN A WORLD LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...
SAW A GIRL IN FRONT OF YOU... THEN GOT ATTACKED BY SOME MEN RIDING HORSES...
カチカチ
HOW DO YOU EXPECT ANYONE TO BELIEVE THAT?
AND ONE OF THEM KILLED YOU...

DREAMS AND HALLUCI-NATIONS AREN'T THE SAME!
A HALLUCINATION IS WHEN SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T ACTUALLY EXIST SEEMS LIKE IT EXISTS! AND THAT'S WHAT YOU...
CATEGORIES OF HALLUCINATIONS
AUDITORY
VISUAL
TACTILE
OLFACTORY
GUSTATORY
カラ〜ン
THERE'S THAT STICK, AND THE SCAR ON MY BACK...
DO HALLU-CINATIONS LEAVE GIFTS?
THAT WAS A GIFT!

IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE!
THE SENSATION... OF STABBING THAT MAN IN THE THROAT...
TADASHI... I'D BE SO GRATEFUL IF THAT WAS A HALLUCINATION!
THAT'D MAKE ME FEEL SO MUCH BETTER...
ALRIGHT, LET'S SAY...
THAT IT ACTUALLY HAP-PENED...

WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO GO BACK THERE?
BUT...
THERE ARE MANY OTHER CASES OF SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA!
THERE'S SPIRITING AWAY, DISAPPEARANCE, TELEPORTATION, TIME-SLIPPING...
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF IT IS TRUE, THOUGH...
GO BACK? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME! WHY THE HELL WOULD I...
YOU DON'T ?
IT'S JUST. SHE WAS.
SHE WAS KIDNAPPED, RIGHT? THAT GIRL WHO PROTECTED YOU FROM THAT SPEAR...?
YOU SEEMED PRETTY WORRIED ABOUT HER...
NAME ...?
YOU SHOULD'VE AT LEAST GOTTEN HER NAME AND NUMBER!

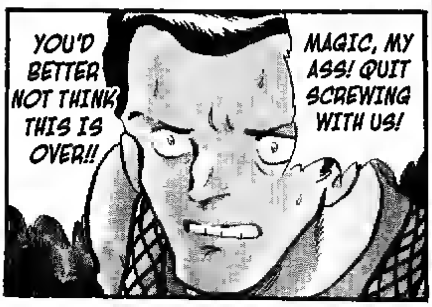
DID YOU ASK FOR HER NAME?
...I FORGOT IT!
NO, FORGET IT!
HUH ?
LET ME DO A LITTLE MORE RE-SEARCH!
ANYWAY, I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH DATA TO GO ON!
I GUESS THIS IS JUST MY BAD KARMA COMING BACK TO ME!
IT'S TIME I MOVED ON FROM FIGHTING!
HEHE...
SPIR-ITED AWAY, HUH?
SORRY, TADASHI... FOR MAKING YOU LISTEN TO MY STUPID STORY!


SO JUST... FORGET IT...

YOU REALLY GOT US GOOD!
HAHAHA...
WELL, SHUCKS!
I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU WERE A GONER, BUT THEN YOU SHOWED UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PEDESTRIAN ZONE THE NEXT DAY...
WHEN WE DROPPED YOU IN THE POOL WITH YOUR HANDS TIED...
WHAT KIND OF MAGIC DID YOU USE?

I CAN USE MAGIC, COELACANTH!
THAT'S RIGHT ...

I CAN'T HAVE THAT!

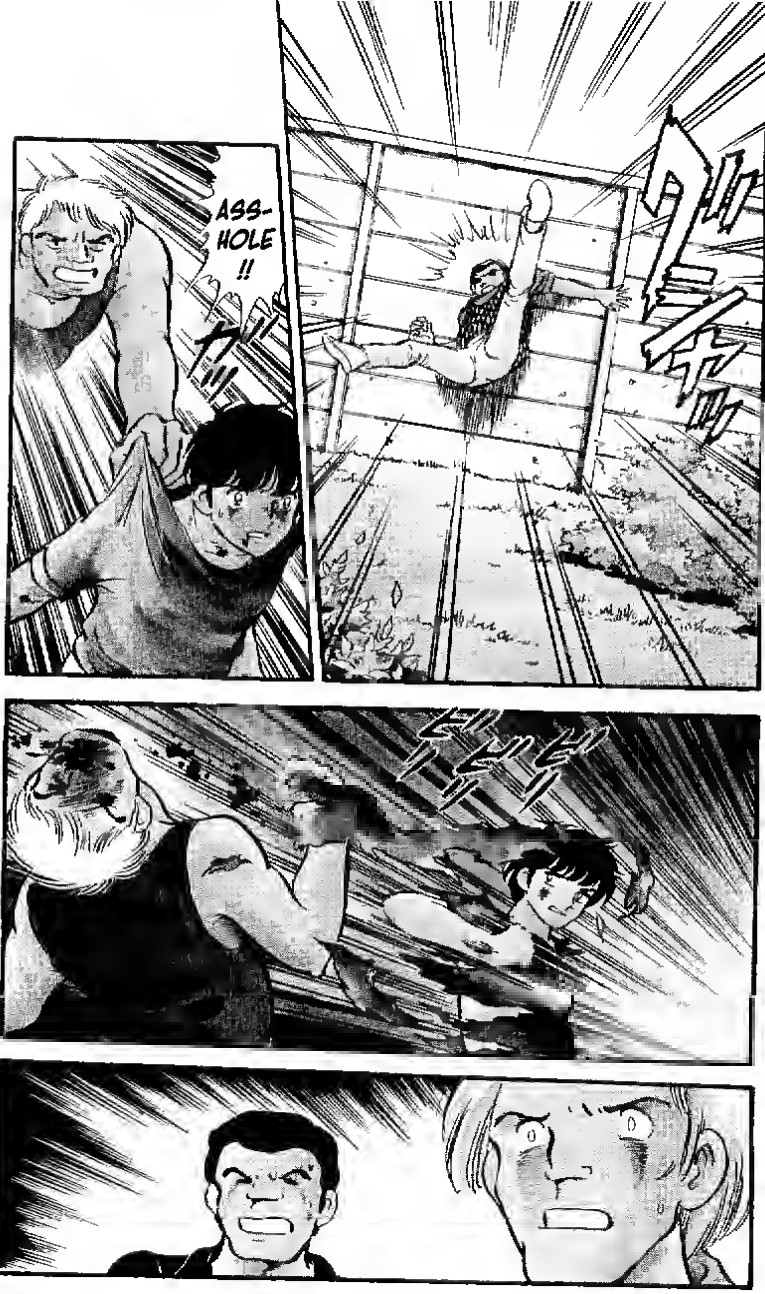

MAGIC, MY ASS! QUIT SCREWING WITH US!
YOU'D BETTER NOT THINK THIS IS OVER!!

SO YOU'D BETTER STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM ME...

GO ON! USE YOUR SO-CALLED MAGIC!
WHERE'D ALL YOUR SPUNK GO?
C'MON, WHAT'S WITH THE APATHETIC ATTITUDE!?

KCH! YOU REALLY THE GREAT RYUJI!?
YOU AND YOUR FILTHY FACE!?
YOU MAKE ME SICK!!

YOU GUYS WIN!
THAT'S ENOUGH ...
I'LL THROW YOU INTO THE POOL AGAIN!
THAT'S UP TO ME TO DECIDE !!

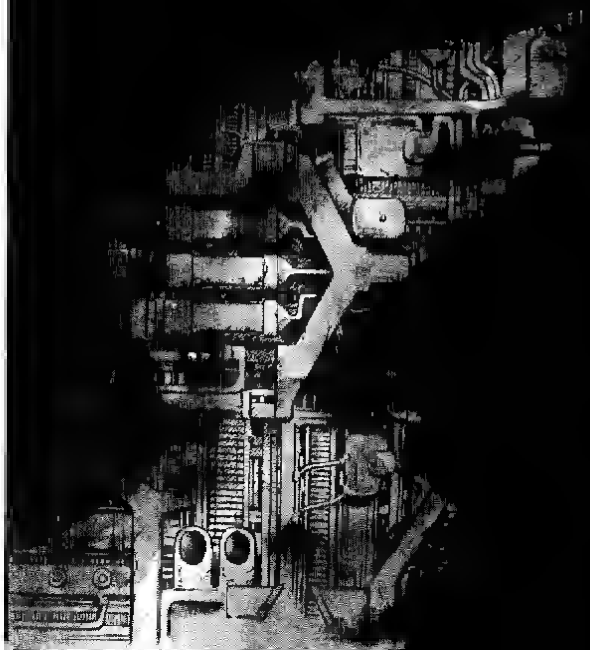

ASS-
HOLE
!!

SORRY ABOUT THIS...
I CAN'T GO BACK TO THAT POOL!

WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN BY THAT!?
FOR YOUR COOKING, MOM!
MMM, DELICIOUS! THIS PORK CUTLET IS GREAT...
I'LL MAKE SURE TO MAKE YOU DINNER MORE OFTEN...
THAT'S THE TRAGEDY OF BEING A SINGLE MOTHER!
I'VE BARELY HAD THE CHANCE TO MAKE ANYTHING FOR YOU BEFORE!
I GUESS THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS!
IT'S THE TRAGEDY OF BEING A SINGLE MOTHER.
...JUST LIKE THAT FIGHT YOU GOT IN!
WATCH ME?
NO, IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAT I WATCH YOU THAN THE STORE!
OH, DON'T MIND ME! YOU'VE GOT A STORE TO RUN, DON'T YOU?
STALLONE

DO YOU HAVE TO BRING THAT UP...?
I'M NOT FIGHTING ANYMORE!
RYUJI... YOU PROMISE ME YOU'LL NEVER FIGHT AGAIN!?
YEAH!
REALLY !?
I'LL BE AN HONORS STUDENT FROM NOW ON!
SO DON'T BE SURPRISED IF I BECOME A TOTAL NERD!
ALRIGHT !!
HAHAHA...
I...I GUESS YOU WOULD!
THAT AWFUL SCAR MUST'VE TAUGHT YOU A LESSON!
YEAH ...

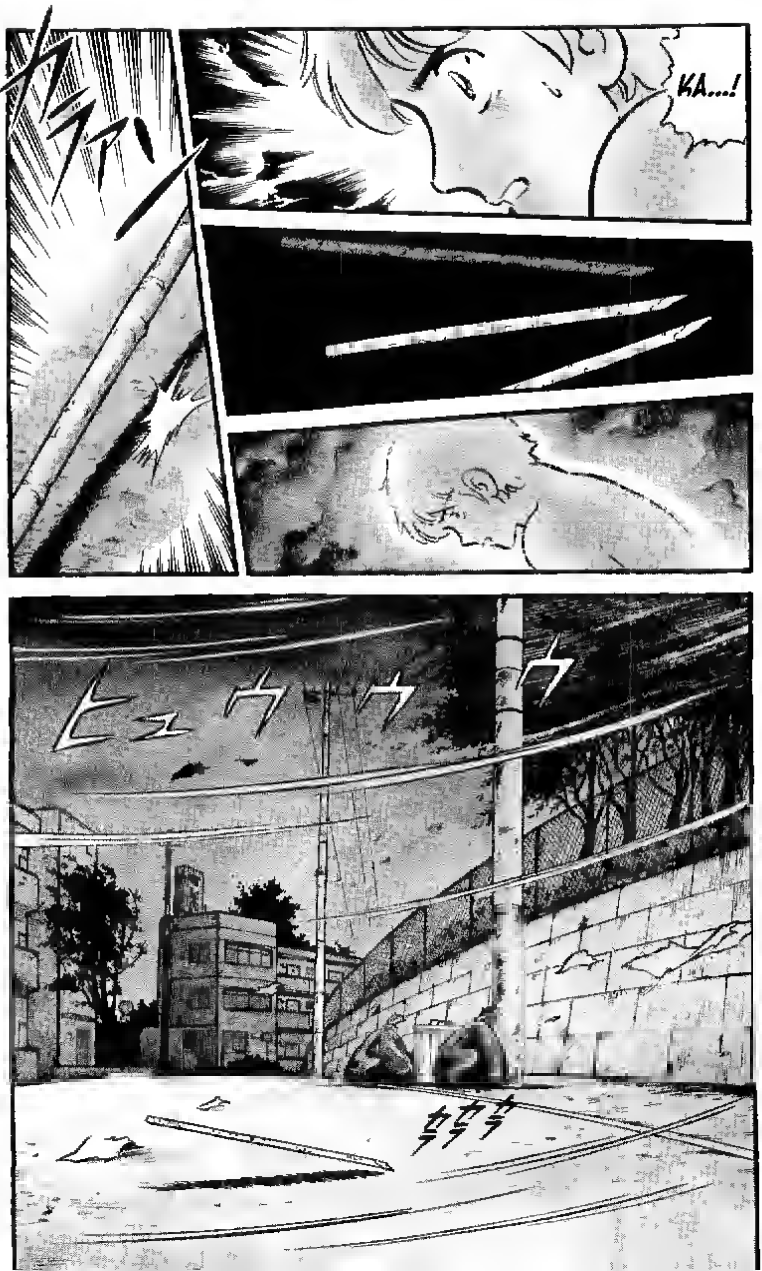
RYU...!!

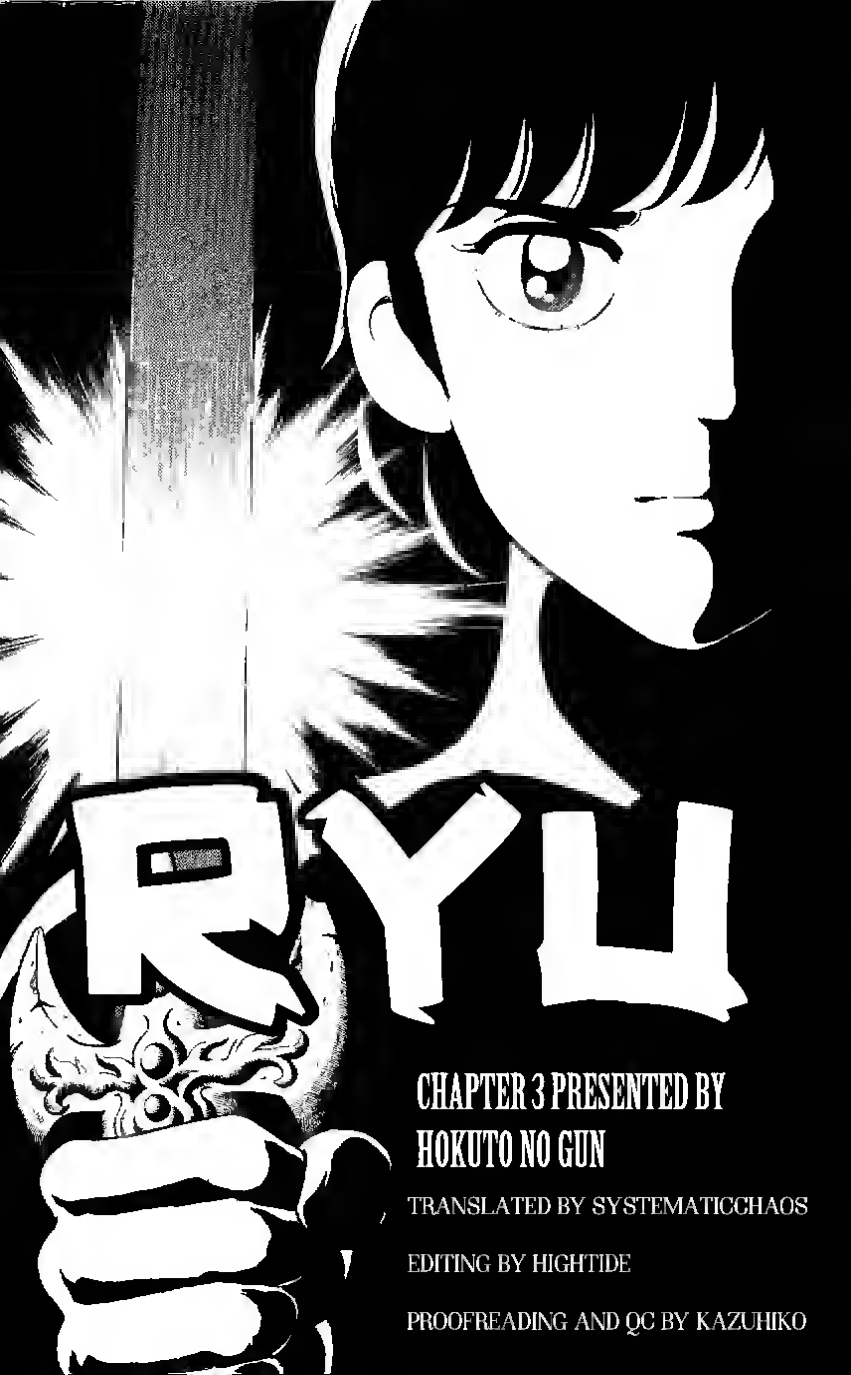


RYU!!
RYU!!

KAZE
!!

KAZE! WAS THAT YOU!?
WERE YOU CALLING ME!?
WHERE ARE YOU!?
WHERE ARE YOU, KAZE!?


ガラァン
KA...!
ヒュウウ
カラカラ



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